

Gender Phenomenology: Interaction and Parenting Style for Early Children In The Family

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Abstract

Communication and interaction dynamics are fundamental to creating harmony in the family. This study investigates interaction and communication patterns in the family environment in the rural area of Bengkulu. This research uses a qualitative methods with phenomenology approach. Phenomenological studies use Husserl's theory where what is depicted is the reality of events in the field. The research results show differences in interaction and parenting patterns within the family, primarily related to the role of the husband and the dominance of communication between the mother and the child. The following finding is that parenting styles that tend to pamper children or encourage children to be independent result in limited access to gender equality within the family. These findings can trigger various debates, ranging from relevance to social and cultural change, the influence of other factors in shaping children's gender roles, the need for policy interventions, to considerations related to the generalizability of the findings, gender theory, informal education, and cultural change in the context of role research. gender and parenting. This research implies that informal education needs to be transformed to support increasing parental capacity to increase gender-responsive parenting competencies.

Keywords: *interaction and parenting style; parenting styles; gender studies*

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Introduction

Caring for children is the central organizing principle in the family, while the family structure plays an essential role in creating a parenting style according to the family environment (McCloskey & Eisler, 2022). Agreeing with this, evolution and culture agree to entrust parents to reproduce and continue the species as well as protect, nurture, regulate, educate and socialize their offspring (Bornstein et al., 2022). This impacts interaction and communication within the family, essential in forming harmonious family dynamics. The family is the basic unit in society that provides the initial foundation for individual development. According to family systems theory, positive interaction and communication within the family forms the basis for the development of emotionally, socially, and psychologically balanced individuals. Family and education are essential in children's development, with children as the primary learning subject. Families play a role in supporting the comprehensive development of early childhood, including physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and language aspects (Zhao et al., 2022). There is a close link between parental emotional involvement and child development, especially in rural areas, which

significantly mediates child development (Li & Liu, 2022). This leads to essential family education implications, such as the formation of children's character, which is influenced by interactions in the family environment, and this can shape appropriate life experiences for children (Yao et al., 2022). In agreement with this, understanding and regulating parents' emotions is also an essential factor that can influence parenting patterns for children at home (Edvoll et al., 2023) so that a deeper understanding of how interaction and communication in the family influencing family dynamics is essential in the context of community development.

There have been changes in the achievements of community development, education, and the quality of education worldwide (Akter et al., 2015; United Nations Development Programme, 2014). However, this still needs to be fully achieved, especially in rural areas and Bengkulu. Bengkulu and its rural areas are exciting to conduct this research, where traditions and cultural values often still strongly influence family interaction patterns, especially in indigenous communities. Several problems occur in rural areas, such as limited access, social behavior, and the economy (Sabiq et al., 2020). The impact is to create inequality and require special treatment (Rahma et al., 2019). This condition presents unique things where interaction and communication within the family can significantly differ from urban or urban areas. There are assumptions, namely, Gender identity is a personal conception of oneself as male or female. *Gender roles* are defined as the outward manifestation of personality that reflects gender identity (Putra et al., 2023). Even in daily interactions, some families carry out labeling activities for children regarding their role in home and school activities (Putra et al., 2020). In this context, it is crucial to understand how work, gender roles, and local cultural values influence interactions and communication within the family.

Positive interaction and communication within the family can positively impact children's development, including social, emotional, and cognitive development. Not only that, communication impacts behavior; if a child experiences limitations in communicating with his family, he has difficulty regulating emotions, which may significantly impact his development (Berking & Wupperman, 2012). Parents consider several things as predictors in the socialization of parenting in children, for example, age, gender, personality, beliefs and attitudes, cultural factors, gender stereotypes, and different contexts, such as potential danger degree of emotion. An assumption states that there is a linear relationship and interaction between predictors (these various predictors can also predict child arousal and some child outcomes).

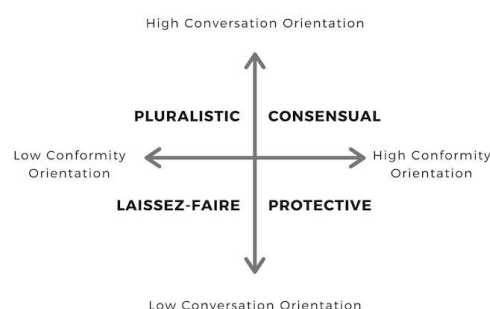


Figure 1 Scheme of Communication

According to the Family Communication Pattern Theory, there are four family communication patterns: consensual, pluralistic, protective, and laissez-faire. These patterns differ in the level of conversation and appropriateness, so no matter where on the spectrum the family falls, the family's communication style. Overall, this shows the complexity of the emotional socialization process. Therefore, a deeper understanding of family interaction

patterns can provide valuable insights for developing programs that support children's development (Zhang et al., 2021). Therefore, the family's emotional climate created by communication and interaction influences children's sense of security and their emotional demands (Lawson et al., 2021). Apart from that, parenting style is also an essential aspect of the family that can be influenced by interaction and communication. Apart from that, parenting style is also an essential aspect of the family that can be influenced by interaction and communication..

Different parenting styles within families can significantly impact children's development. The typology of parenting styles has been reinterpreted to suggest that it is not parental control that is important or provides advantages in authoritative parenting, but rather the nature of the emotional climate in communication or interactions between parents and children (Baumrind, 2012; Nwufo et al., 2023). Therefore, a deeper understanding of parenting patterns that exist in families in rural areas is also essential to identify their impact on children's development. In the context of globalization and ongoing social change, the role of gender in interaction and communication within the family is also a significant concern. Experts assume that in a country where mothers provide the primary parenting climate, responsive parenting will provide a climate that supports emotional development (Aiyar et al., 2023; Delios et al., 2023). Changes in the husband's traditional role in the family can affect interaction and communication dynamics. Therefore, this research describes the phenomenology of gender roles influencing interaction patterns in the family. Overall, this research aims to investigate the phenomenology of gender conceptions constructed by families through interaction and communication patterns in community families in the rural area of Bengkulu and their impact on parenting styles and children's development. A deeper understanding of the factors that influence family dynamics in this region can provide a basis for developing programs that support the development of healthier and more harmonious families.

This research stands out because it adopts an approach that incorporates a variety of important family factors, including family communication patterns, parenting styles, gender roles, and their impact on child development. With the phenomenological approach used, this research understands the phenomenon from the subjective perspective of individuals in the family, providing in-depth insight into how family members experience and understand patterns of interaction, communication and caregiving in their own context. The focus on family communities in rural Bengkulu provides a contextual and cultural understanding of the factors that influence families, which may differ from the urban context. This research emphasizes that the emotional climate in the family and the construction of gender have an important role in successful parenting patterns, and also explores how changes in traditional gender roles can influence the dynamics of interaction and communication within the family. Overall, this research provides a more holistic and in-depth understanding of family dynamics, and this provides a strong foundation for the development of programs that support healthier and more harmonious families in rural areas of Bengkulu.

Methodology

The study used a qualitative using phenomenology approach (Figure 2) (Creswell & Poth, 2016; Sudaryono., 2012). From a gender perspective, this research used several stages, using several methods, starting from literature review, primary and secondary data collection, and discussions with families who were informants in this research. The flow of this research is as figure 3.

This study was conducted in the rural area of Central Bengkulu. Data was collected by distributing questionnaires to respondents who were family members in the research area. Apart from that, interviews were also conducted to gain a deeper understanding of interaction patterns within the family. The statistical analysis method was carried out descriptively to provide context and strengthen the qualitative analysis. Data collection and analysis examines

issues of gender equality and social inclusion. They were carrying out interviews with community groups identified through a literature review. Targeted group mapping of vulnerable community groups using the *snowball method*. Involving family groups as part of a participatory gender analysis is a critical stage and will focus on extracting detailed information about the conditions of vulnerable groups.

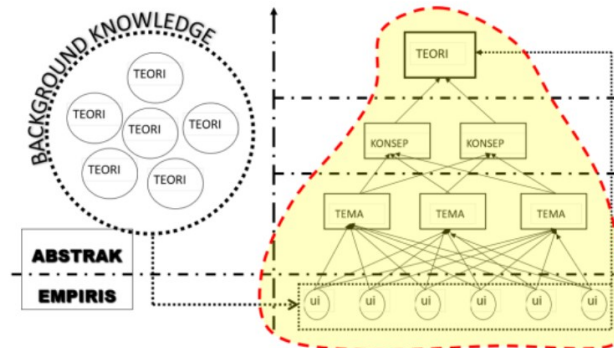


Figure 2. Alternative Research Process for Qualitative Inductive Methods. Phenomenology (Adapted from Sudaryono's Research Methodology)

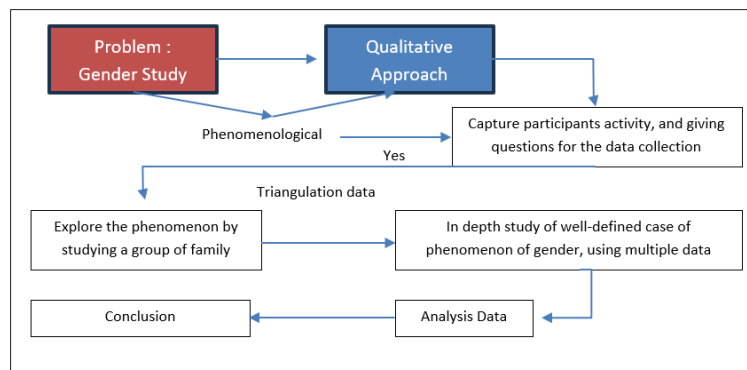


Figure 3. Research Step Using Qualitative Research

Result and Discussion

Interaction in the Family

Research digs deeper into parents' awareness and their essential role in educating children. Discussions about child care become a concrete manifestation of parents' commitment to understanding and managing children's educational tasks more effectively. However, despite evident efforts to build healthy family interactions, this research also identified several challenges families face in this region. Informants who provide information regarding their activity tendencies tend to choose to rest after coming home from work. In everyday life, informants revealed that mothers still dominate communication interactions with children. Several informants said that after coming home from work (the husband) preferred to rest because he was tired and, in the evening, gathered at the village security post. The following is an interview excerpt from the informant.

"...aku udem balik belan biaso e tido segal, dibangon ke bini di soro makan ,badu dah ku lanjut ke poskamling. Anak juge kadang badu tido, maklum bae masih kecil ken, biase ee pek kaklah man di dusun, badu tido bae..." (R1, Interview 11 June 2023).

This condition is influenced by the level of fatigue and the work demands they face. This condition reflects the complexity of family dynamics in rural areas, where husbands often

face heavy workloads and feel exhausted afterward. The same thing was expressed by the respondent (R2). The following is an excerpt from an interview delivered by R2.

".....ku jarang jage ngecek kek anak,segale kebutuhan bini yang urus (R2, Interview 12 June 2023)"

The husband rarely talks to his children, meaning the informant has little communicative interaction with his children. Instead, all the wife's needs are handled by herself. This shows that the informant focuses more on the relationship with his wife and his responsibilities towards her rather than spending time communicating with his children. Informants are also busy with work or other tasks, and family dynamics or traditional roles influence the division of tasks and interactions within the family. This, of course, impacts the family due to unique dynamics and ways of interacting, and how the informants (husbands) handle their family's needs matches the circumstances and agreements in their household. However, it is important to remember that communicating with children is essential in parent-child development and relationships. Good interaction and communication with children is precious for forming emotional bonds and understanding their needs in growth and development. To dig up information regarding husband and wife partnerships, the following is an excerpt from R3's interview at the informant's house.

"ku biase ee lanjut belan yang belum badu di kantor,kalu care sama anak biase ee man ade perlu bae man col ku mintek tulung meli ke rokok" (R3, Wawancara 18 June 2023)"

Parents' busy lives make togetherness in the family limited. This results in all information regarding children's needs being met by the wife/mother. Some children are even entrusted to grandmothers/close relatives when the parents are on the move so that their needs are known from outside the immediate family. Furthermore, many children are entrusted to their grandmother/grandfather after returning home from the educational unit. This is what makes information about the child's needs known through the closest relatives of the family (grandmother/blood relatives).

In addition, some husbands revealed that they rarely talk or interact directly with their children. The reason is that they *handle all the wife's or mother's needs*. This reflects the substantial role differences in the family, where husbands focus more on their relationship with their wife and their responsibilities towards her rather than communicating or interacting actively with their children. These dynamics indicate that interactions within the family are only sometimes evenly distributed, and role patterns may be more traditional regarding the division of tasks and responsibilities between husband and wife in caring for children.

In this context, the findings of this study indicate that despite genuine efforts to build positive interactions within families, challenges still need to be overcome. Factors such as fatigue from work and differences in gender roles in the family can influence interaction and communication dynamics. Therefore, a deeper understanding and efforts must be made to create a balanced family environment that supports children's optimal development. In this way, families in rural areas can continue to improve their interaction patterns to make them healthier and more productive for their children's future growth.

Childcare activities carried out are still considered very low. Parents still feel awkward interacting with their children. Apart from allocating approximately four to five hours of playing time with children a day, information was also found that there were no activities related to learning activities, such as literacy activities, reading fairy tales when the child goes to sleep, and playing together at home. Furthermore, in interactions, parents often say words that can hurt children's feelings; for example, the terms *you are a lazy child, naughty child, " and " stupid child*, are conveyed to the child without realizing it. Several parents agreed that they had expressed this directly to their children when continuing pre-literacy play activities at home. When the child needs help

"....Ngape nga coll paham niru ke pola huruf di lembar lan kak"(R1, Interview, 22 June 2023).

The meaning of R1's answer shows an angry expression at his child, asking why the other person cannot understand or imitate the letter pattern that should be imitated in the discussed worksheet. R11 expressed dissatisfaction or disappointment with his child's ability to imitate or follow the expected letter patterns. This sentence shows that the informant felt annoyed because his child could not carry out the task or instructions correctly, especially in imitating the letter pattern that was supposed to be done on the worksheet. The informant may expect better or more accurate results from the person he is talking to, and the reaction becomes angry or disappointed because the results are not as desired or expected.

The results of this study reveal that families' efforts to provide significant attention to playtime with children are meager. Concrete efforts to spend quality time with children are low, even when faced with work demands and busy daily routines. Reflects parents' awareness of the importance of interacting and involving themselves in their children's lives, creating precious moments that support children's development and well-being. Research results also show that active discussions regarding child care among families still need to be carried out. This research highlights the awareness of parents in this area regarding their essential role in educating their children. Discussions about child care are a concrete manifestation of parents' commitment to understanding and managing children's educational tasks, which still need to be more effective. In this context, this research shows that although there are genuine efforts to build positive interactions within families, challenges still need to be overcome. Factors such as fatigue from work and differences in gender roles in the family can influence interaction and communication dynamics. Therefore, a deeper understanding and efforts must be made to create a balanced family environment that supports children's optimal development.

Parenting Style in the Family

Every family has a unique parenting style, and this parenting style can have a significant impact on children's development. Several families in the research location expressed their various parenting styles at home. Parenting patterns that pamper children excessively are also visible. Families who apply this pattern tend to provide for all their children's needs because they fear they will cry if they do not get what they want. On the other hand, some families implement parenting patterns that require children to be independent from an early age. They are reluctant to help children when they need something and believe boys must learn to be independent early.

The results of interviews with several families provide a parenting style that provides treatment that starts with asking but does not provide too much control over what the child does. This parenting style is demonstrated by parents' low attitude in identifying children's needs and knowing children's play activities in one day. Researchers asked what children did when they had just come home from playing or were late coming home from playing. The informant responded with answers. The meaning of R11's answer shows an angry expression at his child, asking why the other person cannot understand or imitate the letter pattern that should be imitated in the discussed worksheet. R11 expressed dissatisfaction or disappointment with his child's ability to imitate or follow the expected letter patterns. This sentence shows that the informant felt annoyed because his child could not carry out the task or instructions correctly, especially in imitating the letter pattern that was supposed to be done on the worksheet. The informant may expect better or more accurate results from the person he is talking to, and the reaction becomes angry or disappointed because the results are not as desired or expected.

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".....Cuman nanye sesekali ngan anak masalah aktivitas ye. Selebihnye serahlah ye nak ye main nak col"(R1, Interview 9 June 2023).

The meaning of the answer above is that R16 only occasionally asks his children about the activities they are doing but otherwise lets the children continue playing without taking much part in the children's play activities.

Some families impose rules that children cannot break. For example, children immediately do the teacher's assignments after arriving home. This is done because several families with more than one child consider this successful in applying to older siblings of children entrusted to early childhood education units.

The following is a snapshot of the results of the analysis of families who apply the parenting styles of their respective families. The following are some of the results of the analysis of treatment in caring for children in families in Karang Tinggi District, Central Bengkulu Regency, Bengkulu R1-R 3.

"keluarga punye pola ngajo yang ngarah pade intervensi dalam tiap tindakan kek perlakuan. perilaku ngasuh yg manjake anak secare belibihan. asumsi keluarga, disikak ngajo harus ngenjuk segale keburuhan anak karne kalu col diujuk anak lek ngemulung terus"

"pola ngasuh yg diterapke da ngan nolonh anak aebile memerluke sesuatu. keluarga nganggap bahwe anak lanang harus mandiri sejak kecil jadi nye dituntut untuk nyesuaike dekek lingkungan. pergaulan, baik pergaulan disekolah ataupun diluo sekolah. kalu anak melakuke kesalahan make dinasehatke kek dimarahke gune ngejuk efek jere kek anak suoaye col lagi mengulangi kesalahan yang same"

"pola ngasuh ke anak lanang ngasuh tegas dalam artian anak lanang lebih cenderung untuk tebiase mandiri, contoh e col cemas kek col nalak tau keberadean anak lanang aebile belum balik jak busik karene pecaye kalu anak lanang pacak jage diri. sedangke pola ngasuh anak tine da demokrtis dalam arti anak tine siperhatike lebih pade anak lanang."

The uniqueness of family upbringing shown in the excerpts above illustrates a child's future character formation. Gender is multidimensional, and its causes are multifaceted. For this reason, it is necessary to fully understand the developmental systems involved in the development of gender-related characteristics to understand further human gender development, for example, the development of gender role behavior. Thus, a solid emotional connection between children and their caregivers is essential for children's social, emotional, and cognitive development. Parenting means providing consistent attention to form secure attachment relationships and promoting healthy development in children.

Discussion

Phenomenological studies regarding communication within the family to introduce gender roles to children have not yet been carried out. This is because there is very minimal understanding of gender in the family, and there is even a difference in their parents' treatment of boys and girls. This difference in treatment shows that gender communication influences interpersonal relationships. Finally, this behavior impacts children's closeness only to the mother (wife). Children lose their father figure in the family. Fathers play an essential role in children's gender development, and this depends on the extent of communication with children. Parents play a role in developing masculinity and femininity in girls and boys. Looking at this, how mothers and fathers jointly respond to children's expressions of sadness is essential because it is still unclear whether parental support at an optimal level is needed to develop children's adaptive emotion regulation skills. (Poon et al., 2017).

Several respondents from the husband group agreed that being an alert father was the dream of their husbands. However, this has yet to be achieved by implementing warm communication with family members. The demands of work by husbands mean that parents have a different time to monitor their children's growth and development at home, so communication becomes limited. The work done by several husbands is informal sector work whose hours are uncertain; even on holidays, they still work. Even though there were formal sector employees who were respondents in the interview activities, he revealed that vacation time with children had never occurred in recent times. Essential perspectives on how the relationship between family and work can be understood. This perspective identifies three main conditions in the interaction between family and work: conflict, balance, and role enhancement. Conflict occurs when roles in family and work are incompatible or conflict with each other. This can occur when there are too great demands from one of the roles, making it challenging to carry out both comfortably. Role balance shows that a person can effectively engage in and enjoy family and work roles in a balanced manner. This means individuals can divide their time and attention well between the two roles. The concept of role advancement suggests that when individuals feel valued and privileged in both roles (family and work), this can help them manage those roles better. In this situation, individuals feel that their multiple roles not only give rise to tension but also provide higher benefits and well-being than those with only a few roles (Downey & Clune, 2023).

The figure of a strict, rigid father appears in the husband because his attitude is considered cold, so communication does not go well. Based on several experiences, fathers have not been able to create a communication space so that children can speak assertively, and even being able to open up opportunities for discussion with children from childhood has yet to be realized. Parenting activities contain interaction patterns that determine the formation of parenting styles. Communication and interaction within the family are part of children's socialization carried out by parents. The Figure 4 are communication patterns that are usually applied in the family.

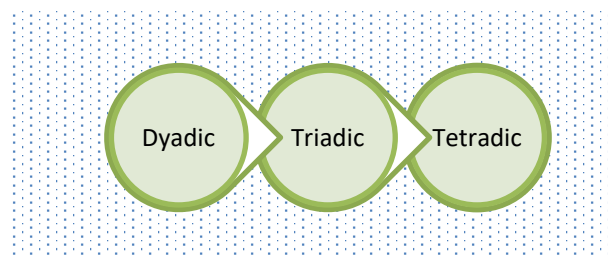


Figure 4 Communication Theory (Kreppner, 1987)

There are three things that parents must do in the socialization process, namely, socialized behavior patterns, agents who participate in the socialization process, techniques, and implementation of socialization. A family with a system that emphasizes the dimension of family interaction. These interaction activities can be two-way (*dyadic interactions*) or a combination of interactions between all subgroups (*dyadic, triadic, tetradic*). Communication

is a condition for interaction. For this reason, the type of communication that occurs in the family is generally direct communication, both verbal and non-verbal. In this study, there is evidence that gender unresponsiveness is passed down naturally between generations. (Olivetti et al., 2020).

Education reduces the likelihood of agreeing with traditionally established gender norms by more than 11% (Rivera-Garrido, 2022). Parenting education programs for child care can reduce the immediate and dangerous impacts of violence while reducing the long-term emotional and cognitive impacts of trauma and social learning that trigger the intergenerational transmission of violence (Stern et al., 2023). Inter-gender dynamics and social progress are closely related (Rodríguez-Planas & Sanz-de-Galdeano, 2019). In other countries, parental empathy is what children expect, but parents still often differentiate based on gender (Kobakhidze et al., 2023). Thus, parental education influences the effectiveness and efficiency of communication within the family. Apart from that, the nature and system of the family also influence the nature of communication, interactions within the family, and parenting styles within the family.

In general, creating a gender-responsive family can be done by establishing a good relationship between father, mother, and children, namely talking and listening to each other, creating pleasant interactions, giving each other a sense of security regarding their respective relationships, and paying attention to each other. Give each other support and encourage each other. Important for parents. Next, parenting activities are the first step in shaping children and their roles.

Parenting patterns that pamper children excessively are also visible. Families who apply this pattern tend to provide for all their children's needs because they fear that they will cry continuously if they do not get what they want. On the other hand, some families implement parenting patterns that require children to be independent from an early age. They are reluctant to help children when they need something and believe boys must learn to be independent early. Apart from that, differences in the treatment of boys and girls are also visible in some families. Differentiating between children in the family can cause deep trauma for the child (Putra & Stiadi, 2023a) Boys tend to be given greater freedom and are considered more independent, while girls often get more attention from their parents. Differences in treating boys and girls are also visible in some families. Boys tend to be given greater freedom and are considered more independent, while girls often receive more attention from their parents. It can be concluded from the analysis of parenting styles as follows: a) Families apply parenting patterns that tend to pamper children excessively. The family believes that all children's needs must be met; if not, the children will cry continuously, b) Families implement parenting patterns that require children to be independent early on. The family is reluctant to help the child if the child needs something and assumes that the boy must adapt to the environment. Children who make mistakes will be advised and scolded to provide a deterrent effect, c) The family applies an authoritarian parenting style towards boys, which tends to make the child independent and not anxious if he has not come home from playing activities. However, the family applies a parenting style towards girls, which means girls are given more attention than boys.

Different parenting patterns cause different behavior and attitudes towards their children. Parents have a more significant influence on children's gender attitudes. Within a phenomenological framework, we can see how individuals experience and understand parenting patterns and gender roles in depth. Phenomenology is important in understanding phenomena from a subjective perspective, and in this context, parents and children have unique experiences and understandings regarding their parenting and gender roles. The influence of parents, especially the role of mothers, in shaping children's gender attitudes is the subject of attention in this research (Olivetti et al., 2020). However, to understand this impact in more depth, we need to look through the lens of transcendental consciousness. Within this framework, we can explain how the awareness of individuals, namely parents and children, influences their understanding of parenting patterns and gender roles.

Transcendental awareness Refers to the subjective and transcendental aspects of experience, and in this context, helps us understand the deeper aspects in the formation of individual understanding. Parental attitudes have a significant impact on children's gender attitudes in society, and this concept can be explained by the concept of intersubjectivity in phenomenology. This means that individuals, in this case parents and children, understand and interact with each other, creating a shared understanding of gender roles and parenting styles. Within the framework of transcendental consciousness, we can explore how psychological and cultural factors shape individual understandings that contribute to this intersubjective construct (Dhar et al., 2019). In supporting access to gender equality, parents have an important role in providing attention according to their children's needs consistently and systematically, without taking actions that differentiate between women and men in society. Transcendental awareness and a phenomenological approach allow us to better understand how individuals, in this case, parents, form their perceptions of gender roles, and how their actions can eliminate the culture that leads to gender representation in every family (Putra & Stiadi, 2023b). Each parenting style has its own advantages and disadvantages, and in a phenomenological approach, we can explain how individual parenting patterns reflect subjective experiences and understanding. Strengthening parental parenting patterns, especially gender responsiveness, can help break the cycle of discrimination and support children in expressing their role in society (Putra & Stiadi, 2023b). It is important for parents to understand and choose a parenting style that suits the child's needs and personality, as well as providing balanced attention and support to ensure the child's optimal development and well-being. In a phenomenological view, this can be interpreted as a deep understanding of how individual awareness shapes parenting patterns and how parenting itself shapes individual experiences.

Conclusion

Interaction and communication within the family are essential elements in forming emotional bonds between family members and understanding children's needs. Although various parenting styles can be adopted, parents must choose a style that suits their children's needs and personalities. Additionally, awareness of gender roles in raising children must be considered. Healthy gender communication in the family can help build better relationships between family members and enable children to grow and develop well. The importance of healthy communication, thoughtful parenting, and understanding of gender roles in the family should not be overlooked. This is crucial in forming a healthy, harmonious family and supporting children's development towards a better future.

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